

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A process for producing bisphenol A comprising condensing phenol and acetone in the presence of, as a catalyst, an acid type ion exchange resin which is modified in part with a sulfur-containing amine compound, wherein:

(i) said condensing is performed in reaction equipment which comprises at least two reactors in series, ~~and wherein an~~

(ii) ~~said~~ ion exchange resin ~~having~~ has a modification rate in the range of 26 to 65 mol%, ~~is used for a~~

(iii) ~~the~~ methanol concentration in acetone ~~being~~ is in the range of 700 to 8000 ppm by weight, and

(iv) the water content of the starting raw material for condensing is maintained to be less than 0.4% by weight.

9. (Previously Presented) The process for producing bisphenol A according to Claim 8, wherein said acid type ion exchange resin is strongly acidic sulfonic acid type ion exchange resin.

10. (Previously Presented) The process for producing bisphenol A according to Claim 8, wherein the sulfur-containing amine compound is at least one species selected from the group consisting of mercaptoalkylpyridines, mercaptoalkylamines, thiazolidines and aminothiophenol.

11. (Previously Presented) The process for producing bisphenol A according to Claim 10, wherein the mercaptoalkylamine is 2-mercaptopethylamine and the thiazolidine is 2-2-dimethylthiazolidine.

12. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (New) The process for producing bisphenol A according to Claim 8, wherein molar ratio of acetone to phenol ranges from 1/30 to 1/3.

19. (New) The process for producing bisphenol A according to Claim 8, wherein the reaction temperature ranges from 40 to 150°C.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-7 were previously canceled.

Claims 12-17 are canceled herein.

Claim 8 has been amended.

Claims 18 and 19 have been added.

The amendment of Claim 8 is supported by the specification as originally filed, for example at page 9, lines 19-23. New Claims 18 and 19 are supported by previously pending Claim 13, as well as the specification as originally filed, for example at page 10, lines 3-14 and page 11, lines 2-18.

No new matter has been added by the present amendment.